IN THE CLAIMS

1. (*Withdrawn*) A method of making 2-butyl-3-[2'-(triphenylmethyltetrazol-5-yl)-biphenyl-4-yl methyl]-1,3-diazaspiro[4.4]non-1-ene-4-one comprising the step of reacting 2-butyl-1,3-diaza-spiro[4.4]non-1-ene-4-one and 5-(4'-bromomethylbiphenyl-2-yl)-1-trityl-1*H*-tetrazole in the presence of a phase transfer catalyst in a reaction system comprising first and second phases.

2. (*Withdrawn*) The method of claim 1 wherein the first phase comprises an aromatic or aliphatic hydrocarbon and the second phase comprises water.

3. (*Withdrawn*) The method of claim 2 wherein, prior to reaction, the 2-butyl-1,3-diazaspiro[4.4]non-1-ene-4-one is in solution in aqueous base.

4. (*Withdrawn*) The method of claim 3 wherein the aqueous base is selected from the group consisting of KOH, NaOH and LiOH.

5. (*Withdrawn*) The method of claim 4 wherein the aqueous base is aqueous KOH.

6. (*Withdrawn*) The method of claim 2 wherein, prior to reaction, the 5-(4'-bromomethylbiphenyl-2-yl)-1-trityl-1*H*-tetrazole is in solution in an aromatic or aliphatic hydrocarbon.

7. (*Withdrawn*) The method of claim 6 wherein the 5-(4'-bromomethylbiphenyl-2-yl)-1-trityl-1*H*-tetrazole is in solution in an aromatic hydrocarbon that is toluene.

8. (*Withdrawn*) The method of claim 2 wherein the 5-(4'-bromomethylbiphenyl-2-yl)-1-trityl-1*H*-tetrazole is in solution in an aliphatic hydrocarbon.

9. (*Withdrawn*) The method of claim 1 wherein the phase transfer catalyst is a quaternary ammonium compound.

10. (*Withdrawn*) The method of claim 9 wherein the quaternary ammonium compound is tetrabutyl ammonium hydrogensulfate.

11. (*Presently Amended*) A method for making irbesartan comprising the steps of: ~~preparing 2-butyl-3-[2'-(triphenylmethyltetrazol-5-yl)-biphenyl-4-yl methyl]-1,3-diazaspiro[4.4]non-1-ene-4-one prepared according to the method of claim 1~~; combining 2-butyl-1,3-diaza-spiro[4.4]non-1-ene-4-one and 5-(4'-bromomethylbiphenyl-2-yl)-1-trityl-1*H*-tetrazole in the presence of a phase transfer catalyst in a reaction system comprising first and second phases; heating the combination to a temperature of about 20° C and about 95° C; separating the first and second phases; removing solvent from the first phase to obtain a residue; providing a mineral or sulfuric acid acidified solution of the residue in a water-miscible solvent, basifying the solution in water-miscible solvent with an inorganic base; removing water-miscible solvent from the solution; separating trityl alcohol so formed; and recovering irbesartan.

12. *(Original)* The method of claim 11 wherein the water miscible solvent is acetone.

13. *(Original)* The method of claim 11 wherein the basification is with an inorganic base to a pH of about 8 to about 12.

14. *(Original)* The method of claim 13 wherein basification with inorganic base is to a pH of about 9 to about 10.5.

15. *(Original)* In a method of making irbesartan, the step of combining, in the presence of a phase transfer catalyst, a solution of 5-(4'-bromomethylbiphenyl-2-yl)-1-trityl-1H-tetrazole in a first solvent that is an aromatic or aliphatic hydrocarbon and a solution of 2-butyl-1,3-

diazaspiro[4.4]non-1-ene-4-one in a second solvent comprising water and an inorganic base, whereby first (organic) and second (aqueous) phases are formed.

16. (*Presently Amended*) The method of claim 15 wherein the first solvent ~~aromatic or aliphatic hydrocarbon~~ is the aromatic hydrocarbon toluene.

17. *(Original)* The method of claim 15 wherein the phase transfer catalyst is tetrabutylammonium hydrogensulfate.

18. *(Original)* The method of claim 15 wherein the inorganic base is KOH.